

1                                   **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78**

2       (By Senators Palumbo, Beach, Browning, Fanning, Jenkins, Klempa,  
3       Minard, Snyder, Tucker, Williams, Wills, Barnes, K. Facemyer and  
4                                   Nohe)

5                   [Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary]

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7       Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the  
8           need for legislation regarding the negative social and  
9           economic costs to the citizens and State of West Virginia due  
10          to the abuse of prescription medication.

11          Whereas, prescription drug abuse is a serious problem in this  
12       state and country; and

13          Whereas, the serious impact prescription drug abuse has on the  
14       criminal justice system, i.e. jails, prisons, public defender  
15       costs, or "direct costs" to the state are known or can be  
16       ascertained; and

17          Whereas, there are serious additional costs that have not been  
18       considered such as theft, violence and other serious crimes that  
19       are tied directly to prescription drug abuse that have not been  
20       calculated into the costs to the state; and

21          Whereas, approximately 80% of child abuse and neglect cases  
22       have prescription drug abuse as one of the core issues; and

23          Whereas, according to the office of the United States Attorney

1 lost time on the job in terms of productivity and loss of job  
2 opportunities because of prescription drug abuse are significant;  
3 and

4 Whereas, prescription drug abuse even effects truancy which  
5 has shown an increase in recent years; therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

7 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
8 requested to study legislation regarding the negative social and  
9 economic costs to the citizens and State of West Virginia due to  
10 the abuse of prescription medication; and, be it

11 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and  
12 Finance report to the Legislature on the first day of the regular  
13 session, 2012, on its findings, conclusions and recommendations  
14 together with drafts of any legislation necessary to effectuate its  
15 recommendations; and, be it

16 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
17 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
18 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
19 Government and Finance.